

**Claims**

1. (Currently Amended) A device for filtering fluids conveyed at high pressure with an inlet opening (21), an outlet opening (24) and a metal housing (2) enclosing a filter chamber (23) and having a service opening (3,4) closed by means of a lid (14,15), also of metal, which is seated by the action of a contact force on a rim portion (5,6) surrounding the service opening (3,4) in direct contact with the metal of the housing (2), the rim surface (7,8) of the rim portion (5,6) associated with the lid (14,15) sloping between its inner boundary edge (10) that is associated with the service opening (3,4) and its outer boundary edge (12) such that the rim surface (7,8) forms an angle (13) deviating from 90° with the adjacent inside surface (9) and outside surface (11) of the rim portion (5,6) and the contact surface between the lid (14,15) and the rim portion (5,6) is limited to a fraction of the rim surface (7,8) and wherein there is arranged inside the filter chamber (23) a filter element (26) through which fluid flows on its way from the inlet opening (21) to the outlet opening (24).
2. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 1,  
~~characterised in that~~  
wherein  
the filter element is a filter body (26) which is seated on one of the walls that define the filter chamber (23) and through which the fluid can flow in the region of at least one of its peripheral surfaces.
3. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 2,  
~~characterised in that~~  
wherein  
the sealing surface (27) of the filter element (26) surrounds the outlet opening (24).

4. (Currently Amended) A device according to ~~either claim 2 or claim 3,~~  
~~characterized in that~~  
wherein  
the filter element (26) is biased by resilient force acting from the filter chamber  
(23) on the sealing surface (27).
5. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim one ~~of claims 2 to 4~~  
~~characterised in that~~  
wherein  
the filter element (26) is cylindrical in shape.
6. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 5  
~~characterised in that~~  
wherein  
the service openings (3, 4) are formed on the end faces of the tubular housing (2).
7. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding~~  
~~claims, characterized in that~~  
wherein  
the housing is (2) is tubular.
8. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding~~  
~~claims characterised in that~~  
wherein  
the lids (14, 15) are mutually tensioned.

9. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 8  
~~characterized in that~~  
wherein  
the tensioning is obtained by tension screws or tension bolts ~~(30)~~ that act like expansion screws.
10. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 8  
~~characterised in that~~  
wherein  
the inlet opening ~~(21)~~ is formed in one of the lids ~~(14, 15)~~ and the outlet opening ~~(24)~~ is formed in the other of the lids ~~(14, 15)~~.